



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

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**Statement on High-Speed Train Business Plan
From Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director**

"California can no longer afford to do nothing to fix its broken transportation system and ignore the enormous economic and jobs benefits the statewide high-speed train system will bring. The high-speed train will bring 160,000 construction-related jobs and 450,000 permanent jobs to California.

"The nearly three-month delay of the state budget caused a similar delay in progress on this year's business plan. The Authority is eager to complete the latest business plan and has kept the Governor and legislative leaders aware of the impact state's budget delay would have on the completion of this plan.

"We have always anticipated it would take 45-days from signing of the state's budget, which funds the work of this project, to compile all of the data into the business plan document. The state's budget was signed on September 24, 2008, and our staff and consultant team have been working vigorously since then to prepare the document. This timeline puts the completion date at November 8. However, given the fact that Prop 1a is on the ballot we are committed to working as quickly as humanly possible to complete it as soon as possible.

"The Authority's process for preparing all of the ridership, revenue, engineering and finance plans has been transparent and available to the public on our website. The plans have also been completed and publicly peer reviewed by the world's leaders in high-speed train systems.

"Importantly, for every one dollar of investment in high-speed trains California will get two back in a federal and private sector match, as the system will be built with one third federal, one third private and one-third state funds. It's also important to know that state bonds used will not raise taxes and once built the system will pay for itself."

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